

American Opinion Summary

Department of State

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RUSSIA AND CUBA

Sam Donaldson, when the signing of tensions between the U.S. and Soviet confrontation over Cuba is finally signed, is cautious. As the Milwaukee Journal expressed it: "Immediate fears are lifted, but this must not end caution. It does not solve the basic problems of the cold war." Roscoe Drummond warns that cancelling the venture "does not mean that the Kremlin is calling off the cold war."

The New York Times sees "compelling reasons for continued caution": the "long record of broken promises," the chance that Premier Khrushchev may now try to push hard on Berlin, Castro's belligerent posture.

A further reason for caution is that the U.S. is still ignorant of his attitude. "Cancellation would be premature until the 'launching bases' have been dismantled, the missiles removed to Russia and U.N. inspection made so secure that they cannot be secretly replaced," Roscoe Drummond cautions. The Philadelphia Bulletin endorses "a cool, wary and see attitude" towards the Khrushchev promise to withdraw "his missiles from Cuba."

Senator Kennedy's statement is viewed as a "new crisis" for the Soviet guarantee of missile withdrawal to Cuba. The New York Times, Chicago Tribune, N.Y. Herald Tribune, Washington Post, Boston Globe.

Some see the possibility of further escalation. "The psychological effects on the course of the Cold War should be profound," the Chicago News asserts. Edwin Canham, after noting that the Berlin crisis "is not to come," says: "The crisis rattled the basis of national firmness, definiteness, and courage, and will be solving another with the same tools."

Senator Kennedy's continuation of cooperation with reservation draws additional commendation. The New York Times, Boston Herald, N.Y. Post, St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

However, some criticism is heard. One Dixie in a conservative opinion poll. Several raise editorial questions as to why the President did not move sooner to end the missile buildup in Cuba. The N.Y. Wall St. Journal, David Lawrence, Hanson Magazine, New York Post. A group has been formed to protect the terms of the Cuban settlement, particularly "assurances" that Cuba would not be invaded under the leadership of Edward R. Rickenbacker and William F. Buckley Jr.